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Message Text

SECRET

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21
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 007227
P R 291007Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6561
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 4371

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES

REF: THE HAGUE 4300, 4302; LISBON 4968

1. DUTCH MFA (DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DE HOOP SCHEFFER) GAVE EMBASSY REPORT ON CONVERSATION OF DUTCH AMBASSADOR WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. IT CONFIRMS ACCOUNT LISBON 4968.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA, DUTCH AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE COVERED KEY POINTS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND REITERATED HOPE THAT PRINCI-PLES OF PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY WOULD BE RESPECTED. AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT COSTA GOMES RECEIVED HIM WITH SINGLE SECRETARY PRESENT AND IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PRESENT ATTITUDE OF PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PARTIES BUT ADDED HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD ADOPT MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDES MAKING POSSIBLE BROADER-BASED GOVERNMENT. HE TOLD DUTCH AMBASSADOR THAT HE CONSIDERED DANGER OF COMMUNISM HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED IN FOREIGN PRESS AND IN PORTUGAL, EMPHASIZING LIMITED CHARACTER OF SUPPORT WITHIN PORTUGAL FOR COMMUNIST FORCES AND ASSERTING THAT DANGER OF PEOPLE'S
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REPUBLIC WAS MUCH LESS THAN THAT OF RIGHTIST COUP.

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3. DUTCH IMPRESSION IS THAT COSTA GOMES DOES NOT NOW SEEM DISPOSED TO ACTION SUPPORTING MODERATES BUT THAT SITUATION REMAINS VERY FLUID. DE HOOP SCHEFFER REQUESTED THAT WE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH, REITERATING THAT DUTCH FULLY SHARED US HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF MODERATE ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND NOTING THAT EC-9 POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSIDERING PORTUGUESE SITUATION DURING ROME MEETING NEXT WEEK.
BROWN

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